

Application No. 09/921,107
Amendment dated November 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled).

7. (previously amended) A system for controlling access to digital media content by a user, the system comprising:
 - a database for storing main accounts and sub-accounts required to access the digital media content, at least one of said main accounts being linked to at least one of said sub-accounts; and
 - a computer processor programmed to selectively restrict access to the digital media content by said main accounts and said sub-accounts, said computer processor being programmed to permit at least one of said main accounts to control access to the digital media content available to said main account and one or more sub-accounts associated with said main account, the controlled access to the digital media content of said one or more associated sub-accounts not being limited to a subset of the controlled access to the digital media content of said main account.
8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor restricts access to the digital media content according to selected spending limits.
9. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor restricts access to the digital media content according to a type of content.
10. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor restricts access to the digital media content in accordance with a rating system.
11. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor restricts access to the digital media content according to viewing times.
12. (previously amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor is programmed to permit an account holder of one of the main accounts to selectively restrict access to the sub-accounts linked to the main account.

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13. (previously amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor is adapted to generate a report of the spending habits of the users using the accounts.
14. (previously amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said processor is adapted to generate a report of the viewing habits of the users using the accounts.

Claims 15-18 (cancelled).

19. (previously amended) A computer-implemented method for creating an account for an account holder to view digital media content, the method comprising the steps of:

- creating a record for a primary account to permit the account holder to view the digital media content;

- obtaining information about the account holder;

- creating a sub-account linked to the primary account to permit a sub-account holder to view digital media content;

- selecting a form of payment;

- imposing restrictions to access the digital media content to at least one of the primary account and the sub-account;

- providing an option for the primary account to control access to the digital media content available to the primary account and the sub-account linked to the primary account, the controlled access to the digital media content available to the linked sub-account not being limited to a subset of the controlled access to the digital media content of the primary account; and

- assigning an identifier to the primary account and the sub-account.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions includes the sub-step of imposing restrictions selectively among the primary account and the sub-account.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions on the sub-account is performed by the account holder of the primary account.

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22. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of obtaining information about the sub-account holder.
23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions includes restricting the amount an account holder can spend.
24. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions includes restricting the type of content accessible to an account holder.
25. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions includes restricting the viewing times during which an account holder can view content.
26. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of imposing restrictions includes restricting the content accessible to an account holder based on a rating of the content.
27. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of generating a report of account activity.

Claims 28-31 (cancelled).

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said spending limit is imposed on a time-based value.
33. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the type of content is based on a genre of at least one of video and audio media.
34. (previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the digital media content is offered through a subscription service, one of said account holders being a subscriber to said subscription service.
35. (previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein said subscriber is a commercial entity.
36. (previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said computer processor is programmed to permit said one or more associated sub-accounts to have greater access to the digital media content than the main account with which said one or more sub-accounts is associated with.

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37. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of providing an option includes imposing greater further restrictions on access to the digital media content available to the primary account than the sub-account linked to the primary account.